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MENNOIRS

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Treasonable Conference

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S..... House,

For Deposing

The Present Ministry,

And making a

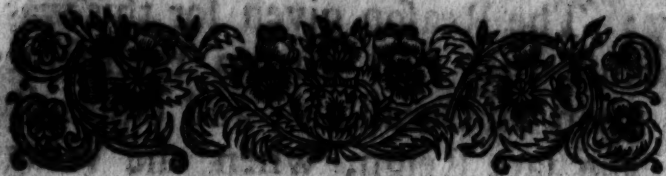
New Turn at COURT.

L O N D O N,

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SECRET
MEMOIRS
OF A
Treasonable Conference.

IT has often been said in Publick, and once in Print, by a noble Person, who became an Author upon that very Occasion: That there were a Set of TORIES in this Kingdom, who were always sincere in the Revolution-Principle, and loyal Subjects to the Sovereign; Friends to the Establishment in Church and State, and who ought still to be

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treated as true Lovers of their Country: The Reason given for this was, because they had shewn themselves so upon all Occasions; and especially in the late Reign, when the Whigs and they joyn'd in against the last Ministry of Queen *Anne*, and against the Measures of that Time: It was remembred of these Men, that they came into the Interest of the Protestant Succession, with such seasonable Zeal and Affection, that the King thought fit to entrust several of them with a Part in the Regency; committing a Share of the first Administration to their Hands, as Persons who had given such Testimony of their Fidelity, as was not only satisfactory to his Majesty, but as had even reconciled some of the best of his Subjects to them; and upon this Principle, many of them were very kindly accepted, and *all the rest who came in to their Measures*, were distinguished by the Name of *REVOLUTION TORIES*.

It has since been observ'd in their Favour, that none of these Revolution Tories, especially of the more considerable



siderable of them, ever came into the late Rebellion, or can be said to have concerted any Measures with the Rebels; But, on the contrary, adhering strictly to the passive Doctrine, which at first went a great way in denominating them as *Tories*, they never suffered *Nature to act against Principle*; No not even then, when they thought themselves not treated according to their Merit.

But as it has all along been the Opinion of some wise Men, that *Whigs* and *Tories*, however moderate, are by the Nature of their politick Notions, incompatible in the Administration of this Government; so it could not be far, that Men of such differing Foundations could go together; NO: notwithstanding their Agreement in the main and fundamental Points of the Constitution: and tho' the Wisdom of the Government found it possible, and perhaps endeavour'd to have made it more so, to go on with these Men with a great deal of Harmony and Unanimity, in the more general and essential Parts of the publick Business,

and that they, on their part, seem'd to come heartily into those common Points, which are necessary to all Government; (*viz.*) *resisting the Rebels, settling the Revenue, raising Troops, Taxes, &c.* yet when it came to the Push, in the nicer Parts of the Administration, *such as* prosecuting necessary Justice upon Criminals, suppressing Riots and Tumults, entrusting needful Powers in the Hands of the Sovereign upon extraordinary Occasions; putting in, and putting out Persons, and several other like Cases; these Gentlemen have been constantly found to be a dead Weight against the common Interest; and if the Jacobites have not been visibly joyn'd, they have not fail'd to encourage themselves with the Expectation that some time or other they might, by the help of these *Tories*, embarrass the Government with it self, and open a Gap, by the Dissention of Parties, to break in upon the Constitution, and upon the Succession also.

Upon these Discoveries, the Government have frequently been obliged to displace and dismiss them from

from their Share in the Management; and the King has at several Times remov'd most of them from his Councils and Service, and that not without due Resentment against their Conduct; NOW as this displac'd Circumstance is greatly their Disadvantage, as a Party, and to their personal Mortification also; so it has not been thought to be the easiest to them of any thing in the World; and therefore it will surprize no Body to hear that they have, upon several Occasions, laid their Heads together, and joyn'd their Interests, in Order to retrieve their Affairs, and if possible to replace themselves in the Favour of the Sovereign, and by Consequence in their ancient Interests and Employments.

Nor will it seem strange, that they have taken into their Consultations, and made a Confidence with some, who have not been so famous for favouring the Revolution, as they themselves have been; tho' perhaps they may not have come over to the Jacobite Principle for all that;

It

It was some time ago, that the Heads of this Party began to concert their Measures one with another, for the re-establishing their Interests, and had not the Rebellion interven'd, they had no Question gone about it much sooner; But as Friends are tryed by the Circumstances which those are in who want them, so it was here.

It may be observed here, that these *Revolution Tories*, have at divers Times, played divers Sorts of Games, still aiming at the same End, (*viz.*) the Restoration of their Interests: For Example; while the Court proceeded in the ordinary Measures of the Administration, they could take none but ordinary Measures to introduce themselves; but when the Government seem'd alarm'd, and that a Rebellion appear'd in the Heart of his Majesties Dominions: they apparently acted an extraordinary Part, *that is to say*, they set up for a Kind of Neutrality in Politics, *as if they had told us*, that they wanted only to see if the Rebellion should prove successful, and so turn
into

into a *Revolution*; in which Case they stood ready, as it might be said, to plead Merit with the *Pretender*, and extenuate their taking part with the House of *Hanover*, by shewing, upon the weak and passive Part they had acted, and how little Service they had done: On the other Hand, if the Rebellion fail'd, as they had reason to believe it would, they had held themselves, as if in Appearance they had been Friends to the House of *Hanover*, and then had their Merit to plead on that Account also.

This Abridgement of their Politics, may receive some Evidence from their present Conduct; and therefore the following Parts of secret History is laid open, which in general, may serve to clear up the Eye-sight of those, who incline to the old Game of A MOTTLEY MINISTRY.

It was at a House bearing the Name of one of the most ancient Kingdoms of the *Saxon Heptarchy*, where upon a select Occasion the Heads of the abovenamed male-contented Party are said to have met,
the

the Occasion of the Congress, as we are inform'd, was in short this.

The present Government had thought fit upon Occasions, which these Gentlemen esteem'd T R I-FLING and M E A N, to displace, as before, almost all these who we call *Revolution Tories*; and had dismiss'd them from their Employments, Favours, Trusts, &c. in a Word, had put them out of publick Business; and this, Notwithstanding most of them had declar'd in the most seasonable time, and in the most acceptable Terms, for the Protestant Succession, and had appear'd so hearty in the Interest of King George, that the late Party thought them irreconcilable, and the present thought them sincerely engaged in their Interest.

This, as it was first a little strange to the People without Doors; so the Gentlemen complain'd of it, as highly unjust, and as in it self ingrate. It is true, good Manners, and some Principles of Duty, oblig'd them not to reflect personally upon the King; they therefore, according to the old way, of laying all upon the Backs
of

of evil Councillors, thought fit to charge it as a Crime upon the present Ministry ; and after many private and some publick Exclamations, which by the way made them much acquainted with each other's Resentment, they came thereby to communicate to one another their Grievances, and at length to resolve upon closer Consultations for the Remedies, and upon what were the most proper Measures to do themselves Justice.

Before we enter far into their Measures, it seems needful that we should know something of the Persons, and especially a little of the Characters of those, who were the chief Movers in the Machine, which was now form'd, and in this we question not to make the Descriptions so plain, as that there need be no Occasion for Names, in the most secret Part of the ensuing History.

Monoculus was an eminent Person of the first Rank of Peers ; it was hard to say, whether his ancient House, and the Dignity of his Birth, or the high Stations he had been in

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under

under several Monarchs, had given him the greater Esteem of himself: but it seems that this over rating his own Merit, had been for 28 Years a stated Reason for his not suffering any of his Sovereigns to continue long in his Favour; and by Consequence, for his not being long in theirs: He had indeed some valuable Things in him, yet he rather was thought wise, than was really so; and his Want of Constancy, in either the worst, or the best of things, caused him to pass neither for the worst or the best of Men: He had not so little Foresight as not to joyn with every rising Side; but had so little Courage, as never to risque any thing for the best of them: As long as things run smooth, the Ministry *for the Time being*, were sure of him; and when they ceas'd to do so, they were as sure to lose him: The King found him in the Place of Prime Minister, but he declar'd himself unequal to the Weight of that Employment; not for want of Capacity, so much as want of Application: Indolence so engross'd him, that he
could

could rather bear the Reproach of Impotence, than the Fatigue of Business: Thus he found himself insensibly drop out of the publick Affairs, and made himself a meer Invalid in his Countries Service.

He had been easy enough in this State, thro' the excessive Love of his own Quiet, nor could the Notion of being slighted affect him; being above it in Fortune, and below it in Passion; if the restless Importunities of the most impertinent good Wife in the World, had not hurried him out of a State of Negligence, next Door to Stupidity, to the Circumstance of a Malecontent, even to a Degree, next Door to a criminal Disaffection.

He had marry'd a Wife in a Country famous for politick Beauties; whence he had brought Home a Lady, who must be thought eminent for the first, since without the Assistance of the last, she found Means to remove her self from an abandoned Condition, to the Arms of a Man of Honour.

This Lady, of whom *Fame* tells us, that she was born laughing, and bred up to talk to Kings and Princes, as familiarly as they to their Lap-Dogs; finding it would not do in our Court, had liked to have turned Malecontent before her Lord; but as she was impatient of an outed-Condition when she was reduced to it, she never left laughing and shewing her Teeth, till she made him resolve to set all the Wheels he could think of a going, to work himself into the Administration.

It was this *Monoculus*, who following and teizing the rest of his Malecontent Friends, brought them to appoint this Congress, to consider of their Affairs, the manner of which may be as instructing in the Discovery, as the Thing it self.

It was one Morning early, when with his Head full of Chagrin, and of mischievous Resolutions, *Monoculus* was gone abroad, uncertain whether to guide his Thoughts, and to whom to break the Discontents, which yet he was too big with to retain; when
driving

driving in his Coach by the King's old ruin'd Palace, he met NIGRO-QUE, an old discarded Statesman, and a most natural Malecontent, just coming out at the Gate, *for it seems he lived within the Palace*: he was reading a long Scroul, containing a List of Names, and had not seen his Grace, but that the latter making a Motion towards him, and stopping his Coachman, my Lord's Coachman stopt also.

Nigroque, neither in Dignity or Antiquity of Blood equal to *Monoculus*, was nevertheless a Peer; his Family had raised themselves one Generation only before him, and that, as was said, from the meanest Part of the Practice of the Law, by which Means we find him a Cousin German to the *Plebeii*, being two Removes only from *nothing at all*.

Agreeable to this Original, he was noble by Birth, rather than Disposition: as he was a States-man by Office, rather than Capacity: He had newly made an Attempt to be honest, but personated the Patriot so awkwardly, that the Disguise was

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a Burthen to himself, and like *David* in *Saul's* Armour, he was uneasy till he was reduced to his State of Nature: as he had not Skill enough to keep himself conceal'd, so he had not worth enough to keep himself employed; the King, who wanted no forced Friends, and feared no Enemies, had suffered the Encumbrance of him in his Council, in hopes, by the Advantages of being faithful, to bring him to the Love of it; But finding him incorrigible, delivered himself from one, who made no other Use of his Favour, than to shew every Body that he knew not how to deserve it: His highest Ambition seem'd to center in two Things, (*viz.*) To be rich, and a Politician: The first he obtain'd, *if Fame lies not*, at the Expence of some Morals; the last he fail'd in, as most Men do, who attempt things in Spight of Nature: We have rarely heard him blam'd for want of Devotion, but often have heard it questioned, whether it was in him the Product of Ignorance or Superstition, *be that as it will*, his Excess that way has entitled

titled him to two Things, (*viz.*) to be the most bigotted, and the most Priest-ridden Peer in the three Kingdoms; both which assisted him much in his present discontented Circumstances, and particularly as it gave him an Opportunity to list himself in the Service of the *High Church*, which is at present in a State of Humiliation; his Lordship being wonderfully qualified thereby, as well as by his natural Complexion, to talk DISMALLY, about her present Circumstances, and to espouse her in the Quality of a Knight Errant: It was in this Service that he had long been employed to make as many of his Acquaintance as he could, be as malecontent as himself; in which Work he bestirred himself Night and Day, with the same Diligence which he was so fam'd for in a certain Office, where, it was observed, he was always most employed, where there was least to do.

In the present Prosecution of these great Designs for the Church, he had drawn out a long and double List, of which we shall say more in
its

its turn; it is sufficient for the present, to mention the Title, which was directly thus:

FRIENDS TO THE
CHURCH.

FRIENDS TO THE
CHURCH.

Who they were which it seems he had set down promiscuously under that happy Appellation, we shall see in the sequel.

This was the Paper *Nigroque* was reading in his Chariot, as above, when *Monoculus* stopt his Coach to speak to him, and upon which the following Discourse began between them.

My Lord, says his Grace, *I am exceeding glad to meet you, I was wanting an Opportunity to communicate some Thoughts of Importance, and no Man so fit as your self; Can you throw half an Hour away to the Service of your Friend?*

Nigro. Time, my Lord, employ'd with your Grace, can never be thrown away: I'll be at your Service.

Mon. Where shall we go?

Nig.

Nig. Will your Grace go back to my House?

Mon. With all my Heart. (a)

(a) *Nigro.* causing his Coach to turn back, his Grace follows, and the next Scene is within Doors, where *Mon.* begins thus :

Mon. My Lord, I need not tell you, that as publick Matters go, we are all very uneasie, and like to be worse.

Nig. All the publick Affairs, my Lord, look DISMAL, very DISMAL.

Mon. But, my Lord, there seems to me to be a happy Juncture, when something may be attempted to retrieve our Affairs, and I had a great Mind to concert some Measures with your Lordship.

Nig. Attempts! my Lord, What can your Grace mean by Attempts? Force will do nothing! You see how the Attempts that have been made, have not not only miscarried, but have serv'd even to fix the Government as it is, in a Posture unmoveable.

Mon. Your Lordship mistakes me very much; I did not mean such Attempts; I am an Enemy to all Dangers, and dangerous Attempts; that you know very well, my Lord.

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Nig.

Nig. Well: But what can be done then? *The Church*, your Grace knows, *is just sinking.*

Mon. My Lord, I think there is room to propose many things, and I am well assured some Measures might be entered into, to serve these Men as they have served us.

Nig. Before we think of Measures, we must think of Men: It will amount to very little for *your Grace* and I to contemplate our Countries Ruine, and make a Turn in Speculation; you see all is gone, and there seems a Fate to be upon us, that our Friends have no Concert, we are in no Figure, have no Correspondence together, whereby we might assist to save our Country, and save the Church from the most DISMAL Circumstance that she was ever in since the Reformation.

Mon. That's the very thing, my Lord, that has taken up my Thoughts for some time, and upon which I desir'd to Discourse your *Lordship*, and I am very glad to find your Thoughts agree so well with mine; I wish your *Lordship* would enter a little with me into a serious Calculation of our
Strength:

Strength: Have we any Number of Friends?

Nigro. Your Grace proposes a Material Question, and I have spent some time upon the same Thought.

Mon. I am very glad, *my Lord*, our Notions agree so well in the main Point. Pray, *my Lord*, have you made any Estimate? How do we stand? Are our Numbers any thing considerable?

Nigro. I had a List in my Hand when your Grace stopt, and was looking it over, we are not so few in Number, as we are weak in Council; we are perfectly disconcerted, have no established Confidence one in another, nor do I see any Measures can be entred into till we have form'd our selves: We can no more act in the confused Condition we are in now, than an Army can fight without drawing up in Order of Battle.

Mon. I am of your Lordship's Opinion entirely; but how shall we put our selves into a better Posture? Pray, *my Lord*, will you give me leave to see your List?

Nigro. Yes, (b) my Lord, with all my Heart.

(b) *Nigroque* puts the List into his Hand :
Monoculus look'd first in general on the Number of Names, before he began to read.

Mon. Upon my Word, my Lord, here is a good Number of them; if your Lordship is sure of all these, our Strength is greater than I expected. I'll assure you, if it be so, I shall begin to have some Courage again, and to entertain some better hopes than I have done; for I always love a Cause according to the Number of its Friends.

Nigro. I shall think of some more Names yet then are there; for these are hastily set down, and perhaps, when your Grace has read the List, you may think of some also.

Mon. I am reading it, my Lord. (c)

Monoculus reads a little way, and starts at some Names, making a full stop.

Nig. What's the matter, my Lord, your Grace seems surpris'd?

Mon. I am so; my Lord, this will never do; some of these are not at all our Friends.

Nigro. No, my Lord! then I am mistaken, your Grace will set me right in any particular.

Mon

Mon. My Lord, I do not speak of this or that particular, but I see you have put some of the Jacobite Lords in.

Nigro. Some, my Lord, I assure your Grace, I have put them all in.

Mon. Why, *my Lord*, they can never be our Friends! you know we left them all at the late Turn, and they will never come into any Measures but such as will destroy us.

Nigro. Your Grace will be of another Mind in this particular; for tho' we are not for the Pretender as he is a Popish Prince, yet we join all against the present People, and the *Jacobites* are all for us as one Man, without asking any Terms for their Cause as *Jacobites*.

Mon. My Lord, they need not ask any better Terms for their Cause, than to have the Church Party join Interest with them.

Nigro. I beseech your Grace to abate a little Severity in that Case, we must distinguish very much between the Jacobite Party joining with us, and our joining with the Jacobite Party; are not we able to over-rule them in the Case of the Pretender?

Mon.

Mon. I grant your Lordship there is a Difference, as you say; but let me add, what I remember to have heard your *Lordship* say in the Case of the late *Treasurer*, that he join'd with the High Church, upon a Presumption of *managing them*; and they, when they were got in, turn'd the Tables upon the Gamester, and *manag'd him*.

Nigro. The Case is right, *my Lord*, and I remember my saying so to your Grace; but the Argument is on my side, that was my Opinion then, because I knew the High Church were superior to him, and were too strong for him to hurt them; and the same Strength of the High Church Interest, is the Reason why we may manage the *Jacobites*, as it was the Reason why he could not manage us.

Mon. Well, *my Lord*, I will submit to your Measures, rather than dispute at the beginning of our Engagement: I hope you will undertake to guard us against the *Pretender*, for you know we have none of us been in that Interest.

Nigro. My Lord, the *Pretender* is now out of the Question; he is gone,
Defeated,

Defeated, his Cause lost, his own Friends would be glad he was decently disposed of, if they could but come in with us to a High Church Administration: they have had a Blow for it, we stood still at a Distance and look'd on; Now the Thing's over, our Designs look another Way; our Business is to overthrow the horrid Schemes which the *Whigs* have laid for entailing the Administration upon them and their Heirs for ever, and to try what can be done to bring honest Men into play again.

Mon. These are exactly my Thoughts, and methinks the Thing is not impossible.

Nigro. Wise Men never despair.

Mon. But, my Lord, to speak a little to your List of Names, I perceive they are in two Columns, let me understand it a little better; pray, what is the Meaning of the Division?

Nigro. Why it is thus, my Lord: The *first Column* consists of those, who, I think, we are sure of, and most of whom have been spoken with upon the Head. The *second Column* is, of those who we must endeavour to bring in, and who, if they can be obtain'd, will secure us a Majority.

Mon.

Mon. But, my Lord, I find that all the Popish, all the Nonjuring, and all the known Jacobite Lords, are in your first Column.

Nigro. I beseech your Grace to drop that Scruple, I answer for it, you shall be satisfied we are right, and that there is no Danger of them; they will all come in to our Measures.

Mon. I doubt not, my Lord, but they will, in View of bringing us at last into theirs.

Nig. In the mean time, we make use of them to do our own Business, and shall take Care of them afterward; Fear not, my Lord, your Grace cannot think they are able to overpower the Church Party.

Mon. I hope not, my Lord; but it is surprizing a little, 'tis a dangerous Push.

Nig. We must put that to the Venture, my Lord; you know the Maxim of the Time, in extraordinary Cases, we must take extraordinary Methods.

Mon. Well, my Lord, I see a Name here, which I have a great Opinion

Opinion of for his Capacity, and tho' he is a Jacobite in his Principle, yet I take him for a Man of Probity and Honour, and I believe especially since he is a Dignitary of the _____ I cannot doubt his being true to her Interest: Pray have you had his Opinion.

Nigro. Yes, my Lord, and his solemn Engagement too, that tho' he is for the Pretender in his Desire and Design, yet that he will never act any thing for him against our Measures, nor but upon such Provision, for the Safety of the Church, as shall satisfy us all.

Mon. Does my Lord come in upon such Terms! then I acquiesce; I wish we might meet sometimes to settle these things a little, then we might bring Matters to some Kind of Head.

Nigro. My Lord, you lead me to an openness with your Grace, which I rather waited an Occasion for, than make any Scruple of; your Grace cannot doubt, but before I came the length which you see, and which I must have gone, to be sure

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of

of all those Names, which you see in the first Column of my List, there has been several Meetings, and are set and appointed Consultations, among such as we can depend upon, and where, I dare say, there is not one Man but will think it a happy Step, and express the utmost Satisfaction, if I had the Honour to introduce your Grace; and to be yet freer in this Matter with your Grace, we are appointed to meet this Evening at the Duke of — for in a Word, my Lord, the Case is of the utmost Importance.

Mon. I agree with your Lordship that it is of the utmost Importance, and shall be very willing to wait upon your Lordship to the Place, if you think my coming will be agreeable; but shall we enter into some of the Names, in the second Column of your List?

Nigro. I had rather your Grace would defer it to the Evening, when you shall know what Steps has been taken, and what remains still to take; for this is the most general Meeting we have had, and in which

which we propose not only to compare Notes with one another, and inform our selves what every one has done, but to resolve upon our farther Proceedings, and come to a Point what is next to be done; for Matters can never rest thus, a few Months more will fix the Enemies of the Church past all Possibility of removing them, and put the Church into a Condition not to be recovered.

Mon. Well, my Lord, I will attend, and will be glad to find such Measures taken, as I have Reason to expect, from the Wisdom and Conduct of such Heads, as I find by your List are concerned in this weighty Affair.

This short Conversation being over, the new Allies, after mutual Assurances of Friendship and Confidence, separated for a Time; *Monoculus* went immediately back to his *Italian* with the News, and gave her a full and distinct Account of what had passed; she began to grin as soon as he but named the Person, but

laughed so loud, when he came to the Story of the List, and the two Columns, that as familiar as her Tittillations are to his Grace, he could not but be a little interrupted with them: whereupon he pressed her to abate a while, that he might finish the Relation, but it was in vain; so he withdrew and left her laughing.

But to return to the diligent Gentleman we talked of: *Monoculus* was no sooner in his Coach, but *Nigroq.* pursued the Progress he was upon before; this was to go to a certain Ecclesiastick, who his Lordship had of late renewed his Intimacy with; for between them the Interests of the Church were constantly taken Care of, *after their manner*: This was the indefatigable Father in God, *Oracle* Bishop of This *Oracle* was a Bishop of the last Promotion, and if modern Prophets err not in VISION, his will be the last Promotion of the Kind: He had the Fame of a compleat State Firebrand before his Exaltation, and some have said of him, that his Share in

in the Pontificate, has but very little abated the Acrimony of his Brains : His Zeal for the Church, it seems, made him less a Friend to the *Hanover* Succession, than he might otherwise have been ; being convinced, that if that Family came to the Crown, the Plague of Moderation, which High-Church Men have generally in all Ages had an Aversion to, would break out upon the Church, and spread over her whole Body, to the Ruin of her Constitution, and of all those who expected to tyrannize under her Protection, and by her Authority : Besides this, it was his professed Opinion, that the Protestant Church of *England*, might be very safe under a Popish Pretender : and that if not, the preserving that Succession was of so much more Moment, than preserving the Church, that we ought to run the Risque of the latter, to secure the former : This Reverend Person was now become the *Oracle* of the High-Church Party, and had their Esteem most, for those very things which recommended him least ; he was, if

Fame

Fame flatters him not, a Man of polite Parts, but generally was thought more of a Statesman than a Christian, more a Courtier, than a Churchman; and more a Scholar, than a Gentleman: His Zeal in publick Matters was as warm, as in religious Matters cold, and it was thought, he would sooner be a Martyr for his politick Principles, than his Religious; hence Whigs in the State, were more his Horror, than Hereticks in the Church; and he was far more eager to extirpate Republicans, than Socinians.

From hence also it came to pass, that he was not only hearty in the present Design, but was the Spring, and first Mover of the whole Work, the Axis upon which it all turn'd, and the Engineer by whom the whole Scheme was laid, NIGROQ, was indeed a good Second, and became next to ORACLE, the grand Wheel in the Movement; But ORACLE was the chief.

As he had contriv'd the intended Congress, in the Affair now to be spoken of, so he had not been wanting

ing to find proper Persons to form the Assembly, and had Agents ready on all Hands to fill it up, to what Number might be found proper; the Names which *Nigroq.* had drawn up in a List, were of his collecting, the Characters of his giving, he had sounded the Depth, and tryed the Temper of many of them, and as he determin'd, more or less Weight was put upon them, in the present Affair: his Pains were indefatigable in bringing over to his Designs those who he thought might be useful, and in managing Tempers, he had such a Skill, that like Sathan, he always took hold of Men by the right Handle.

Buquinguan, a Peer of the most exquisite cunning, was a Prostitute to his Wit; in Spight of insufferable Pride, and pretended Gravity; that Duke submitted to be managed by his Dexterity; he made him seem pious, in Spight of an established Character to the contrary, and set him up to act for the Church, who wanted the very first Notions of any thing that was religious.

Oracle

Oracle knew, this politick Peer would neither serve them, or any one else, further than by opposing his Interest to the Ministry, in the ordinary Course, but would fail them or trick them in any further Dependencies; so that he was too wary to expect, and too cautious to desire his Assistance, in a publick and particular manner; but as he was a Man of Council, he thought he might be singularly useful: in the more close Consultations which they had now resolv'd to enter upon, for the carrying on their Affairs; Besides which, ORACLE working too and fro' in his Mind, what use was to be made of this Engine, who tho' too weildy to be turn'd about at Will, yet by its own perverse Tendency, inclin'd always to move Retrograde to the publick Good, if he mov'd at all; he at last marked out the Orbit. of his Motion, appointed him to be the Head of the dead Weight for the Church, and kept him in Petto for a Reserve, when the Battle should be begun.

It

It occur'd to this Church Politician, that some Advantage might be made for their new Measures, from the Discontents of a certain Northern Peer, who was lately dismissed from great Posts in the Government, as well Military as Civil: and it was not a little Pains that he took, to get proper Agents to improve the Chagrin they expected to find him in, at a Treatment, which, without Question, was in its Nature surprizing, as it might be in its Circumstances sudden and unexpected; But as this was a nice Point to manage, so the Reverend Father durst trust no Body with it but himself: but he met with a Repulse, as we shall see in its Place.

The mustering up of Agents was the first Business in Order to settle a Juncto for their farther Consultations, and he had been, *as it may be said, defeated* in the two last mentioned, one being not worth having, and the other not to be had.

Nabuzaradan was the next Man; he was eminent for his Birth,
F Wealth,

Wealth, and many good Qualities; his Honesty was thought to be so much greater than his Capacity, that he was believed to be much fitter to be trusted, than employed: his Temper qualified him for a male-content, being much sooner offended than reconcil'd, and was peculiar in the Manner of his Christianity, in that, tho' he might sometimes forgive an Injury, it was rarely known that he would ever forget it: had he been as capable of revenging, as he was of resenting, no Man that had ever disoblig'd him, could have been safe: but as his ill Temper prevail'd enough in him, to make him very apt to be angry, so his good Temper had always Power enough to keep him from doing Mischief: The Height of the Station from which he fell was great, the Fall it self precipitate, and circumstanced as much to fire his Resentment, as could be desir'd: But as his private Fortunes were great, and qualified him to fall easy, so they assisted to keep him so; in a Word, he had more Gall than Spleen,

Spleen, knew how to be angry, but not how to be envious; his Genius was above foul Method of restoring himself, and a little below the Management of a fair one.

He was nevertheless a Malecontent, spoke with Bitterness of the Ministry, and not with so much Respect of some others, as his Quality and Duty seemed to demand: the weaker his particular Capacities were suppos'd to be, the fitter was he to be a Client to these Sollicitors, and to be drawn in by the Sorcerer that attack'd him, and by the Witchcraft of Jacobitism, even against Inclination; for being once in the Circle, and taught to speak the Language of Disaffection; like a wicked *French* Master, that taught a Lady his Scholar to talk bawdy, when she understood nothing of what she said; so he talk'd Treason before he knew it was the Brogue of the Party.

Unawares he suffered himself to be drawn in, but was kept in with much more Ease than was expected, by their always keeping from him the Knowledge of what he was a doing.

It was at his House, that the Congress was appointed; and tho' the Number was but few, and that they were all irresolute, who to fix upon, to fill up the Juncto; yet leaving it to Fate, and to every Member to bring such as they found fittest for their Purpose, it was resolv'd to delay their Meeting no longer.

It is said among some, who pretend to Knowledge in the secret History of these Things; that there were several other Persons at this Conference, and some, who do not yet think fit to let the World know, that they are on that Side; much less that they are gone such a Length, as it seems they are, or as may be guess'd by the Company they keep.

That we may avoid Preambles, in a Discourse of this Consequence, we shall come to the Meeting it self without Ceremony: ORACLE presiding, acquainted them, it is said, in a short Speech, with the Occasion of their meeting, &c. He enlarg'd upon the hard Usage, which, he said, he was sensible many of the Persons there present had received: notwithstanding the good
Services

Services they had done, in adhering to the present Interest, and notwithstanding they had been so instrumental in preserving the Succession of the present King and his House : He was about to touch upon the Easiness of their having secur'd to themselves better Usage, if they had thought fit to have espoused another Interest ; but, as he said, he mentioned it at that time, not to bring any Thing relating to that other Interest into their present Debates, their Eyes being now upon differing Objects : but to give them a due Sense of their own Merit, and of what Reason they had to expect other things from those, who had the Power now in their Hands.

He told them, he would not in his Introduction give his private Thoughts of what they were now to consult of, which he should speak to more distinctly after they had made some Entrance into their Business ; he only told them, the grand Affair before them was, to look into the State of the Nation, the State of the Church, their own private Interest, and what it was they were now to do, in Order to
retrieve

retrieve things in general, save their Country from Ruin, and the Church from impending Destruction; he encouraged them to be vigorous in their Resolves, plain and open in their Opinions, and assured them, that as he had an entire Confidence in the Honour and Sincerity of every one who was there; and should speak with the greatest Freedom in whatever he should say to them, so he hoped they would have the same Confidence one in another, that this was no Time to be backward or diffident, their Circumstances were not so desperate, as to be past hope of Retrieve, or so forward as not to want the Assistance of their Friends: and as they were not met here to form any Insurrection, or to break in upon the Repose of the Publick; but only to think of Methods within the Compass of their Duty and Allegiance to the King, to whom they had all taken the Oaths; and to restore the Administration into such Hands, as might put a Stop to the Oppressions they laboured under, and preserve the Church and the civil Government also in a flourishing and safe

safe Condition, which he believ'd they all would allow was far from the present State of Things.

Hereupon he sat down, beckning to *Nigroq.* to speak his Mind, who standing up, and directing his Speech to the Bishop, seem'd to go on where his Lordship left off: ' My Lord, *said*
' *he*, I was glad to hear your Lord-
' ship mention, that we are not met
' here upon dishonourable or disloyal
' Designs, for this is agreeable to my
' Notion of the Thing, we are not
' going to levy War, or raise Rebel-
' lion; we have nothing to say of the
' Government it self, or the Person
' of the King: When we come to
' transact any Thing with, or relating
' to the Person of his Majesty, I be-
' lieve every one here would act as
' becomes him. I see several Persons
' of Honour here, who have always
' spoken honourably and dutifully of
' the King, and have served him faith-
' fully, and are ready to do so again,
' when his Majesty shall please to open
' the Door, that they may do it, as
' they think they ought.

' But

' But it is our Misfortune, that we
 ' cannot have the same Opinion of
 ' those, into whose Hands the Admi-
 ' nistration of Affairs is now entrust-
 ' ed, which we had formerly. We
 ' think they neither act wisely or
 ' faithfully ; we think neither Church
 ' nor State safe in such Hands : especi-
 ' ally, my Lord, *said he, directing his*
 ' *Speech again to the Bishop,* the
 ' Church can never be secure in such
 ' Measures as these Men take, dis-
 ' couraging the zealous Defenders of
 ' her Interest, who have given many
 ' Years Testimony of their Fidelity
 ' to her Cause, and Zeal for her Wor-
 ' ship and Authority, harbouring, nou-
 ' rishing, and supporting Phanaticks
 ' and Presbyterians, gratifying the
 ' Dissenters upon all Occasions, stop-
 ' ping legal Prosecutions against such
 ' of them, as by their vile Pamphlets
 ' insult the Church, of which we have
 ' so many Examples, that we need not,
 ' as well as have not Time, to enter
 ' into Particulars: and therefore our
 ' Business, as I take it, is, to consider
 ' of Measures to get such Hands re-
 ' moved from the King, or, as we
 ' usually

usually express it, to have the King put into better Hands. I need not explain my self, my Lord, I believe there is none in this honourable Company but understands: here he made a Bow to all the Lords round, whose Number by this Time was encreased to no less than eleven, including *Monoculus* and two Lords who he had brought in with him.

One of these taking the Hint from *Nigroq.* carryed on the Discourse, tho' with a little more Warmth than the other: He complimented *Nigroq.* upon his concise Method, in opening the Case with an Eloquence, as he said, peculiar to his Illustrious Family, and upon his coming so directly to the Point in hand; he felicitated himself upon his being admitted to a Conference among Persons so entirely affected to their common Interest, and to their Country's Good, and especially to the Safety and Honour of the Church: at which Words, he made a Bow to the *Oracle*; but more particularly he bless'd his Fate, that he came in Time to hear his Lordship lead them by the
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Hand,

Hand, so plainly to the Business they were met about, he told them, that it had this Effect upon him, and believ'd it had the same upon all the rest : That they had now nothing to do, but to enter upon Measures, for bringing to pass a new Turn among the Managers of publick Business, and setting proper Instruments at work for bringing it to pass : That true it was, some Measures had been wrong taken, and some Men had carried things too far : but yet he hoped there might be some Steps yet to be taken, which might bring about what they desir'd, if not presently, yet in a reasonable Time : and he desir'd that every one would give their Advice, with Freedom in the present Exigence, and that they might be led into no more Precipitations : That their Strength was not broken, tho' they were as it were disarm'd ; and that they had many ways to render themselves considerable, if not formidable, to the Court Party ; and that this was their present Business.

Monoculus spoke next, and said he was so pleas'd with what that noble Lord

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Lord had said, and so sensible that he had digested these Things thoroughly in his Thoughts, that he could not but be of the Opinion, that it was the Desire of the whole Board, that he would be pleased to go on, and that he would enter into such Explanations, of what he had suggested in general, as his Lordship shall think proper; all the Lords bowed at the Word, signifying their Assent, upon which the other proceeded; He told them since it was their Pleasure he should explain himself, he did it willingly, in Hopes it would lead them into the Bottom of their Design, and that they would speak their Thoughts freely, as they came to the particulars; he told them that as to the wrong Measures which had been taken, he thought he need not to have explained it; their Lordships knew very well that some Gentlemen, who were heartily in the Interest, had driven things on to an open Rupture, which was quite foreign to the thing: That their Business had been to have knit themselves in a solid Interest at Court, where they might have gradually,

and wisely, yet silently and safely have proceeded; that every Man they gain'd there was better than a Regiment beaten in the Field; that this Establishment was too firmly fixed, to be cut up with the Sword; the making a formidable Appearance at Court, and in the Parliament, was better to them, and a likelier way to Success, than raising an Army: That they had rather have a Majority of ten in the House of Lords, or Commons, than of Ten Thousand in the Field; and had much better bring over one Privy-Counsellor, than take the strongest Garrison in *Britain* by Storm; that therefore taking to Arms was the wrongest Step in the World, and served only to ruin their Friends, not encrease them; to make their Work more difficult, not more easy: That it was all owing to the Precipitation of People abroad, who were not only impatient of their own Misfortunes, but apt to promise more from their Interests there, and expect more from their Friends here, than either they were capable, or than ever it was probable they should produce:

' produce : He told them, that it was
 ' his Opinion, that raising a War, was
 ' what their Enemies desired above
 ' all things, as the surest Way to over-
 ' throw the private Interest which
 ' they saw was too growing ; and tho'
 ' he would not believe his Majesty
 ' could entertain such cruel Thoughts
 ' to a Nation, that he expected should
 ' one Time or other be peaceably his
 ' own ; yet he could answer for it,
 ' that they were not a few that de-
 ' sired a Conquest, rather than an Union
 ' of Parties ; that placed all their
 ' Expectation of their own Settlement
 ' upon the Destruction of the Gen-
 ' try, Nobility, and Clergy, of the
 ' other Side ; and to fly to Arms, was
 ' the greatest Gratification of those
 ' Peoples Desire that could be ; that
 ' he thought the Friends of those A-
 ' broad, pushed us upon playing a
 ' desperate Game at Home, before
 ' our Circumstances were reduced to
 ' the Necessity of it ; that it was ap-
 ' parent things went well enough on
 ' before, and nothing seemed to
 ' stand in the way of their growing
 ' Expectations, till some impatient
 ' People

People broke out into Tumults and
 Rabbles, and so by Consequence to
 Arms, before their Friends were
 ready for them : That the Rebellion
 was a Plot defeated, not a War de-
 signed, like the Story of the Gun-
 powder Treason, where when *Faux*
 was taken, and the Mine under the
 Parliament House discovered, the
 rest desperately run to Arms, with-
 out Probability of Success, and were
 defeated of Course : That the Earl of
 Mar spoiled all the Measures at
 Home, and the Duke of Ormond A-
 broad ; and had done ten times
 more Service to the Interest, had
 they lain still, as Lord *Bolingbroke* did,
 and advised them to do ; he re-
 ferred it to their Lordships to look
 back upon the Posture their Affairs
 were in before these unhappy Mea-
 sures were entred into : Was not,
 my Lords, continued he, the Coun-
 try all our own ? in some Counties, the
 Clergy, the Gentry, ours to a Man ?
 Did not the Disaffection encrease in
 all Places to our Satisfaction ? Was not
 the Country every where alarmed,
 with the evident Dangers of the
 Church ?

Church? And could we desire to stand
 in a better Posture at Court for the
 Time it held? Were not many of us
 in the Administration, at least in the
 Councils and Cabinet? Were we not
 posted within Doors, where we saw
 every thing that was done, and knew
 every Step that was taken, and knew
 thereby how to suit things without
 Doors to the great Event we aimed
 at? Was not this, my Lords, a pro-
 mising Scene? Were we not encreasing
 every Day in Numbers, and Inte-
 rest? What need was there of Pre-
 cipitations and Ruptures, to put Arms
 into our Enemies Hands with which
 to destroy our Friends, when we might
 have gradually and silently done all
 at Home, and have at last given the
 Coup de Grace at our own Plea-
 sure?

He put them in Mind, how the
 Tumults first, and the War after-
 wards, effectually broke into their
 Measures: how the falling upon the
 Meeting-Houses, inflamed all the
 Dissenters at one Blow against them,
 just, said he, when we had laid a
 Scheme either effectually to have
 brought

‘ brought them in to be Malecontents,
 ‘ or at least to have divided them a-
 ‘ mong themselves, and so have had
 ‘ them some on one Side, some on the
 ‘ other, which was, said he, to make
 ‘ them be perfectly useless to both.

It is true, said he, we made the best
 of that Affair, by putting forward as
 much as possible that Vote of rebuilding
 the Dissenters Meeting-Houses at the
 publick Expence, which we afterwards
 fail’d not to improve in the Country,
 by the Assistance of the Gentlemen and
 Clergy, to satisfie the People that the
 Church could never be thought to be
 the Concern of those, who so publickly
 espoused her Enemies the Presbyteri-
 ans.

‘ However he added, that this went
 ‘ but a little way, compared to the
 ‘ Injury that those Tumults did, by
 ‘ carrying the Dissenters and all the
 ‘ moderate Gentlemen away from them,
 ‘ and therefore as he told them, they
 ‘ could not but remember, they were
 ‘ fain to conceal their Thoughts, and
 ‘ joyn in against Rabbles of all Kinds
 ‘ in general, as Things which all
 ‘ Men, who desir’d to preserve the
 ‘ Peace

' Peace of their Country must equally
 ' abhor; he told them it was plain
 ' they were driven to the same Exi-
 ' gence by the Earl of *Mar* and others
 ' taking up Arms, which was indeed
 ' the Ruin of all their Designs; and
 ' which they could not but declare
 ' against, and joyn their Assistance to
 ' oppose, unless they would have been
 ' ruin'd with them, and have put
 ' themselves into the same Predica-
 ' ment with those in Arms: he told
 ' them, by that one rash Enter-
 ' prise, abundance of the Gentry,
 ' who would have been more useful
 ' another way, were ensnar'd, hurried
 ' into Jayls, or driven to declare
 ' themselves in meer Desperation, as
 ' was the Case of Mr. *Forster* and
 ' others in *Northumberland*, Sir *W*——
 ' *W*—— Mr. *H*—— and several o-
 ' thers at Home, to the weakning the
 ' Interest, on which better Measures
 ' were laid, and to the putting a full
 ' Stop to all the Schemes they had
 ' then laid for the propagating an
 ' Interest another way.

This Discourse was so lively, so
 much to the Purpose, and touched
 H them

them all so sensibly, that it was easily seen, even in the very Countenances of the whole Body, that it was very agreeable to them: and frequently, upon his offering to stop, they cryed, *Go on, my Lord, Pray go on, my Lord.* He answer'd, *Pray, my Lords, let some Body give their Opinions as well as I;* says one that sat right against him, *you speak all our Opinions, we entreat you to go on, my Lord;* upon these Pressings, he continued his Discourse, and told them, one of the great Mischiefs these Tumults and this Rebellion, for such he said it was to them, as well as to the Government, had brought upon them, were the repealing the *Triennial Bill*, for as for that of suspending the *Habeas Corpus Act*, though it fell heavy upon some of their Friends, yet he told them they could not blame the Court for taking that Step, and that it was nothing but what every Government had done in their Turn, and would, and ought to do again upon such Occasions; and being temporary, would influence Matters but a little while;

But

' But this cursed Septennial Law, said
 ' he, your Lordships are sensible has
 ' ruined us all; Before that, he told
 ' them, they had some View of retrie-
 ' ving the Mischiefs which the wrong
 ' Steps of the Rebellion and Rabbling
 ' had brought upon them; and tho'
 ' they had lost some Friends, and ma-
 ' ny had brought themselves into such
 ' Circumstances, as they could not
 ' own them without manifest Dan-
 ' ger, yet they had cultivated the
 ' general Disaffection to such a De-
 ' gree, that upon a new Election of
 ' Parliament, they made no doubt to
 ' have given a new Turn to the
 ' Gentlemen at Court, and to have
 ' let his Majesty see, THAT the Inte-
 ' rest of the Church did not lye where
 ' some People had placed it: THAT the
 ' High-Party were not so despicable an
 ' Interest as they had been represented:
 ' THAT it was not safe to slight them,
 ' as some Men would have them slight-
 ' ed: and in a Word, THAT it was
 ' his Interest to shift Hands in the Ad-
 ' ministration, if he would effectually
 ' regain the Affection of his Subjects.

He went on here relating some of the secret Measures they had laid for a Court Revolution, which, at present, our Author cannot so exactly remember, but says he repeated them much more regularly afterwards in the Measures he proposed for their future Conduct, and therefore they were omitted in this Part, he concluded thus: *But, my Lords, the Court falling upon this unlucky Expedient, has broken all those Measures; at least it has adjourned them for five Years; which is a terrible Length for Expectations, in which we have so much Reason to be impatient.*

Having gone this Length, he made a little Stop, and then told them, ' that
' to be short, their present Work was
' not to be discouraged by any Disap-
' pointment they had met with; but to
' restore the Breach by effectual Ap-
' plications, and to enter into speedy
' Measures for re-establishing themselves
' at Court, where, he said, it was his
' Opinion, if they could but once
' make their Way again into the Ad-
' ministration, the Credit and Inte-
' rest of their Party in the Country
' would

' would encrease, and they should be
 ' in such a Posture, as never to be re-
 ' duced again by the Whigs; for that
 ' without the Concurrence of the
 ' King, the Whig Interest was in it
 ' self nothing; and if once the Court
 ' came to be made sensible of it, and
 ' to think fit to change Hands;
 ' would dwindle into just what it
 ' was before, viz. a despicable Faction of
 ' Atheists, Hereticks, and Presbyteri-
 ' ans; So that upon the whole, he
 ' told them, they had nothing to do
 ' but to endeavour to restore their
 ' Interest at Court, and the Game
 ' was all their own; and this he said
 ' he supposed, was the Business of
 ' their present Meeting.

Oracle had heard this with much
 Pleasure, but was so full of the Cause,
 that he had scarce Patience to hold:
 But my Lord making a full
 Stop, he told them, ' that they were
 ' now come into the Heart of the
 ' Work; that the Noble Person who had
 ' been speaking, had clearly stated all
 ' their Preliminaries, and made so full
 ' an Introduction to their Affair, that
 ' nothing remained but to begin im-
 ' mediately

' immediately upon the Scheme, and
 ' that as he knew another noble
 ' Lord, who he pointed out, by di-
 ' recting his Speech to him ; had
 ' drawn up some Heads for their
 ' Conduct, and for their present Pro-
 ' ceedings, with the Names of Per-
 ' sons, of whom something was to be
 ' said, he hoped his Lordship would
 ' further open the Conference, by
 ' laying it before them ; this was
 ' done, and contained among other
 ' Things, the following Particulars.

1. To consider of Persons proper to be talked with, and on whom 'tis probable some Influence might be expected, from late Disgraces on one Hand, or little Discoveries of Dissatisfaction on the other.
2. To cultivate the Dissatisfactions of the People in the Country, and to consider how to make the Danger of the Church more popular.
3. To form a List of such Persons, who on a Turn at Court are proper to be brought in ; and to acquaint them with their

their being named, as the effectual Way to make them more heartily espouse the Design.

4. To consider of some Person, who may with all possible Respect, getting Access to the King and Prince, counter-act our Enemies, and fully persuade his Majesty of our being hearty in his Interest, as well as the only Party powerful enough to support it.

When these Heads were read in the Meeting, they began to look upon one another, as if they had been in some Consternation, and it was easy to see that their Thoughts concurr'd in this, *viz.* that they had a difficult Work before them.

Monoculus, Part of whose Character, as has been noted, was to avoid all things difficult, as well as Things dangerous, appear'd very desponding upon these Proposals: He told them that he was very sensible that these were very just Measures, but that some of them were impracticable, and especially the last, which related to the Person of the King: He said he
was

was very sensible that the Interest of the Whigs depended very much upon the Favour the present Ministry enjoyed at Court, and the Interest they had in the King's good Opinion; and that on the other Hand it must be acknowledged, the Conduct of the High Church had been such, and so imprudent since the Accession, that if the King had entertained mean Thoughts of them before, he must necessarily be confirmed in them now, and he could assure them, the Steadiness of the King to his Interest was as firm, as his Judgment to know his Interest was clear; and therefore he could not advise the making any such Attempt upon the King, at least till they were able to support their Address with one of these two Things.

1. An Evidence of their Superiority in Parliament. Or, 2. of some male Administrations in the Ministry; as to the first, they were, he said, adjourned by the new Septennial Act, to such a Distance, as that there was no Room to think of it yet; *as to the last,* he did not think it impossible to bring to pass, and should not be backward

when

when it was, to improve it to their Disadvantage, even with the King himself, as far as Duty and Decency would permit.

Here a Noble Lord, more fam'd for Wit than Honesty, stood up, speaking in a most diverting Stile; said, MY LORDS, *I think his Grace has put the Case very right, about our Application to the King*: indeed we have many Reasons against it, 'his Majesty must have a better Opinion of us than he has yet, or perhaps than we are like to merit from him, before you can expect any Favour there: And as we can seek nothing of the King, but with the utmost Respect, Deference, and Duty; so I am very loth we should come to his Majesty, as the Gentlemen do to the *French* King for the blue Ribband: with *Domine non sum dignus*: If you have any Thing to charge upon the Ministry that has Weight in it, I think every one would go on that Errand, and might be sure to be heard: But as the King has too much Sense of Government, not to hear a fair Charge; so

I

he

' he has too much Penetration to be
 ' trifled with ; but methinks you
 ' should not think the Ministry such
 ' infallible People, that they shall ne-
 ' ver be taken in a Mistake ; for my
 ' Part, I neither think them so quick,
 ' or you so dull, but that they may
 ' be first drawn into a Slip, and then
 ' snapt in it.

Hum says *Oracle* : *Hum* says the
 Lord that spoke the Introduction, and
 added, ' that it was his Opinion, that
 ' the Sum of all they had left for it,
 ' was contained in what that Lord
 ' had said : He told them that there
 ' had very seldom been a Ministry in
 ' the *English* Court, but had acted so
 ' unwarily, whether by the Error of
 ' their Politicks, or the Necessity of
 ' their Employments, that they might
 ' easily be fallen upon by them that
 ' came next. He told them there was
 ' an eminent Lord of the last Age,
 ' who used to say, that if any Noble-
 ' man was willing to be of the con-
 ' trary Party, there was always Room
 ' to come in and find Fault with
 ' the Ministry ; and that he would un-
 ' dertake to impeach, if he thought
 ' fit,

fit, all the Secretaries of State, Treasurers, and Presidents of the Council, that had been since the Restoration; that as this was their present Work, they had nothing to do, but to concert Measures to fall upon the Ministry, that bringing them into Disgrace, they might, as had been the known Practice of former Times, fill their Places up with such Men as they had reserv'd in Petto, to speak of in their Turn.

Here a certain Lord stood up, who had not spoken yet, for whose Description this may suffice, (*viz.*) that he is a general Exception to that Maxim in Physiognomy, *that to go with the Mouth open is the certain Sign of a Fool*: He took them up short, and told them, he wondred to see them fall so earnestly upon the last Head of the Propositions first; he added, that he thought it was a little ominous, that they should begin at the wrong End of their Work, and set their Scheme with the Bottom upward: That he hoped they would not go on at that Rate all the Way: He said, he observed that the first thing

' mentioned in the Propositions, was
 ' what indeed was first in the Nature
 ' of the Thing, (*viz.*) to try to form
 ' themselves into a Body as a Party; to
 ' encrease their Numbers, and make
 ' themselves formidable, by getting
 ' over as many to their Party as they
 ' could; and he wondered, he said,
 ' they should not take hold of every
 ' Man that Fate threw in their Way,
 ' for Advantages given were always
 ' to be taken; that it was an old
 ' Maxim in *Machiavell*, that *falling*
 ' *Favourites are the Beginners of Fa-*
 ' *ction.* That in Order to overthrow
 ' the present Ministry, their only
 ' Way was, to make themselves pow-
 ' erful by Numbers; he concluded
 ' thus, and *is there not a Man just*
 ' *now fallen from the highest Pinnacle*
 ' *of Favour! Can you think, my*
 ' *Lords, he has no Resentment, or*
 ' *that he believes he had no Merit?*

' ORACLE took up this Discourse
 ' immediately, and replied, that his
 ' Lordship aim'd right, and his Re-
 ' proof had been just, if he had it
 ' not to assure him, that Care was
 ' taken to tamper with every Man,
 ' that

' that gave the least Reason to think
 ' he was in the least sower'd or Cha-
 ' grin in his Prospects ; and that they
 ' had snapt them all up as fast as
 ' they dropt, except 2 or 3, who
 ' they found undocible, and not
 ' capable of receiving due Impressions :
 ' That particularly, for the great
 ' Man he mentioned, he had not
 ' failed first by proper Instruments,
 ' and at last by himself, to attack him
 ' with all possible Skill ; but found
 ' him either in such Hopes of retrieving
 ' his Fortunes, as Occasion should of-
 ' fer, or so insensible of his Mortifica-
 ' tions, that he appear'd inflexible to
 ' all that could be offer'd ; and *when I*
 ' *found nothing else would work,* said
 ' Oracle, *I attacked him with this im-*
 ' *portunate Question :* My Lord, *I*
 ' *hope your Grace will be a Friend*
 ' *to THE CHURCH ;* He turn'd up-
 ' on his Heel, and with an Air of
 ' Contempt answered me, *Always, my*
 ' *Lord, when the Church is so to her*
 ' *self :* and giving me no Time to
 ' reply, walked away ; *so I presently*
 ' *gave him up for a lost Man on both*
 ' *Sides, (viz.) one that could stand*
 ' still

' still and see himself used, and
 ' had no Sense of entring into Mea-
 ' sures to restore himself, at the Ex-
 ' pence of those that turn'd him out,
 ' and one that had not Affection
 ' enough for the Church to take
 ' Share with us in her Interests.

' He went on to tell them, that
 ' finding that great Man, tho' dis-
 ' placed in Publick, yet hankering
 ' about the Court, and frequently
 ' paying his Compliment to a certain
 ' Prince, at least in publick; it brought
 ' to his Memory the Story of an
 ' *English* Prince, who entertained his
 ' Favourite *Gaveston*, contrary to his
 ' Father's Injunctions: and this put a
 ' Thought in his Head, which, he said,
 ' he acknowledged had some ill Na-
 ' ture, if not some Treason in it, (*viz.*)
 ' whether the said Prince, in Grati-
 ' fication of his own Inclinations,
 ' might not be brought to do some
 ' disobliging Thing in the Case of
 ' his Favourite, and that so some
 ' Misunderstanding might be pro-
 ' duced between the two Chief
 ' Heads of the Government :
 ' But he acknowledged, that upon
 ' Refle-

‘ Reflection, he not only found that
 ‘ the Prince was too wise, and better
 ‘ advised, than to do any Thing
 ‘ which looked that Way ; but, on the
 ‘ contrary, acted with such Prudence,
 ‘ such Caution, such Deference to his
 ‘ Father’s Measures, and such Detesta-
 ‘ tion of every Thing that looked
 ‘ undutiful or unkind, that there was
 ‘ no Room to hope for it ; and on the
 ‘ other Hand, the Thought looked
 ‘ so horrid, so unchristian, and in
 ‘ its own Nature so treasonable, that
 ‘ he (*Oracle*) said he could not bear
 ‘ to reflect on it himself ; and therefore
 ‘ he told them he hoped they would
 ‘ find better Measures than any of
 ‘ these to think on, and which he
 ‘ made no Question would offer to
 ‘ them in the serious Enquiry they
 ‘ were upon.

Nigroq. smiled at this Discourse ;
 for though he politically acquiesced in
 the general Detestation of the Thing
 it self, yet he seemed to intimate as
 if he would have made no Scruple to
 sow Divisions and Dissatisfactions of
 the worst kind, even in the Royal
 Family it self, if it had been possible,
 and

and if it might have answered the End another Way; but seeing it was not likely to succeed, all that knew *Nigroq.* will acknowledge it was not likely he should not condemn it.

It came before them to consider of the second Head, (*viz.*) *To cultivate the Dissatisfactions of the People in the Country, and to consider how to make the Apprehensions of the Danger of the Church more popular.*

Monoculus shook his Head at that Expression, *the Danger of the Church!* He told them he wisht they would consider of some more proper Engine than this, for that this had been canvassed up and down, and dwelt upon till it grew stale, and had not that Effect upon the People as it would have, if it was let sleep in the Grave of Forgetfulness for a few Years; then he said it might have a Resurrection, and come in Play again; but that now he really thought it was worn quite out.

He told them further, that the Clergy themselves began to be surfeited with it; the People were
sick

' sick of it, and it would not go any
 ' farther in most Places of the Coun-
 ' try; but that which was very par-
 ' ticular he told them, Dr. *Hicks*,
 ' Mr. *Howell*, and some of the Ja-
 ' cobite Clergy, had now entred in-
 ' to a Debate, even with the *High-*
 ' *Church* it self; charging them all
 ' with *Hereſie* and *Schiſm*; affirming
 ' that the true Church of *England* re-
 ' mained only with the *Nonjurors*:
 ' This, *he ſaid*, had ſo alarmed, and
 ' diſobliged the Clergy of *England*,
 ' unchurching them all at one Blow;
 ' that they were all entring upon a
 ' new Strife about it, one with ano-
 ' ther, and that here only the apparent
 ' Danger to the Church was to be ſeen.

HERE he gave himſelf a looſe, to
 exclaim againſt the *Nonjurors*, charg-
 ing them with Ingratitude to thoſe,
 who had done ſo many obliging
 Things for them; alledging that even
 this Notion of the Danger of the
 Church, was it ſelf begun and car-
 ried on, to ſerve them, and had
 done them Service, though there
 might be ſome other Ends in the
 pushing it on: But for them to turn

the Tables upon the Church of *England*, and at once to disown her, and reproach all her Clergy as Schismatics; was not only unkind, but foolish; and opened the Mouths of the Whigs, to lay the Danger of the Church at their Door, and that in a manner which could not be denied; all these Things, he said, urged them to lay aside the Notion of the Danger of the Church at this Time; and therefore he was for considering of some Equivalent.

My Lord ——— seconded this Motion, and told them he was of the same Mind, as to the Danger of the Church; besides, he said the People, as he thought, began on both Sides to have no great Concern for the Thing, or so much as to enquire, whether the Church was in Danger or no: But the Difficulty was, what popular thing to trump up in the Room of it.

Nigroq. told them, he wondered any one should think to break an old Proverb, that 'twas always easy to find a Stone to throw at a Dog; that he never expected to find this Nation
in

in so happy a Condition, that there should be nothing to find Fault with; that as long as Kings administred their Affairs by Servants and Statesmen; the People would never want Oppressions to cry out of, and Grievances to complain of.

The Lord who came with *Monoculus* put in here, and said, ' he understood easily what they all meant, ' but wondred to see they were all ' so shy of speaking plain *English*: ' He hoped, *he said*, they had no ' Apprehensions or Distrust about ' them of any one that was there; if ' they had, they were all in the ' wrong to have said so much, and ' himself in particular: And if they ' had not, the Want of Freedom and ' Plainness would be the Ruin of all ' their Designs; That for his Part, ' he had begun to speak plainly, and ' would go on so: *that it was true*, ' the Notion of the Danger of the ' Church, was grown a *by Word*; ' That the Whigs began to upbraid them with it, and tell them that such and such Things were done, so many Years were lapsed, so many Whig Sessions of Parliament over, so many Troops

raised, so many Months the *Habeas Corpus* Bill suspended, so long King George had reign'd, &c. and yet the Church stood where it did still; He told them however, that they were not to give that Point up, for that it was really fact that the Church was in Danger, and he did not doubt, but it would appear at some Time or other. 'But now, said he, we must turn our Discourse to other Things: Then he descended to Particulars, and concluded that, in a Word, they must form a Party at Court: He added, that the Ministry are to be blacken'd and expos'd; we cannot doubt, said he, but that they will give us Room enough to lay hold of them by, I do not know, said he, whether it be in their Power to prevent it, or whether they, or any Ministry, ever managed without giving sufficient Ground to expose and depose them. This then must be our Business. Well, said Menoculus, but then you must assign some Ground for this; you cannot fall upon them without some Pretence; and I assure you,

'you, the Ministry are Men that will not easily be snared.

That must be left to Time, said the other Lord; but in the mean Time, says he, if I understand our present Work right, it was to be one Part of our Work now, to consider of WHO, and WHO, should be appointed to succeed the present Ministry: He added, that he would recommend it to them, to think of Persons that were acceptable to the King, capable of Business, and not too unpopular, and that none should be named, especially at first, who were in the least obnoxious to the hottest Part of the Whigs; that had ever been Favourers of the Pretender, or Abettors, or so much as Countenancers of the late Disturbances; we may alter them afterwards, *says he*, as we see Cause.

I like all that well, *says Oracle*, whatever we mean; and he added, that he did not doubt, but that some Gentlemen there, were come provided with Lists of such Names as they thought proper.

Upon

Upon this, several pulled out Papers, in which divers Names were put in; but as they differed very much in their Lists, and that some Men were put in, which, it is very probable, had never been consulted in the Case; and above all, because the Relator hereof cannot charge his Memory with the Particulars of so many Names, the said Lists are omitted.

It is true, there being some longer Debates upon one List, and some Names in it for the particular Offices of Secretary of State, and the Treasury, it was easier to recollect; and the Author remembers, that my Lord *Cb*——— was named there, with Mr. *Br*——— as Secretaries of State; and Mr. *Bri*——— for first Commissioner of the Treasury; these were said to be named as unquestionable Persons, and such as between all Parties, would give the least Umbrage of Discontent.

Not but that in reading over the several Lists, the Author says, there was not a Place of Profit or Trust, or a Post of Honour in the Court, Army or Navy, but new Men were
named

named to them, and the Relator only wondered, they had not named a new Man for the first Post of all, and brought out a new King too; because then the Turn would have been universal and effectual, as one of them expressed it.

The Discourse upon these Lists was very long, and scarce a Man was named, whose Character did not admit of such Exceptions, as after a little Discourse, obliged them to lay him aside; so that at last, they had fixed on but very few, the Principal of whom are as above.

The Debates now began to draw to a Close, and especially after what a certain Lord Duke moved, upon the Subject of entring, or not entring immediately upon these Measures; first he asked them, if they had nothing to charge upon the Court-Managers just now to begin with, that they might attack them upon the Spot; that they might have some Time to expose them to the People first; and then at the King's Arrival, they might represent the Ministry as hateful to the Nation, and under whose

whose Conduct, the People were made uneasy. *Monoculus*, a Friend to doing nothing, told them, that Lord had moved well, but there were two unhappy Circumstances which rendered it difficult to offer at that Matter at this Time: One was, the Advance of the publick Credit, which just then was run up to such a Height, whether by the Nature of Things, or by the Arts of the Managers, he could not determine; as that the like had not been known for many Years, and they knew, he said, that the rising or falling of publick Credit was always given as a Test of the Easiness or Uneasiness of the People under the Administration; and therefore had ordinarily been made use of, for, or against the Ministry, in all Reigns, as an Argument of their good or ill Management. (2.) The other was, the setting on foot a Treaty of Alliance with France, which if it succeeded, would at this Time give the Ministry but too great a Reputation for managing Things abroad, and for their Penetration in the

the Affairs of Foreign Countries ; That tho' nothing was more true, than that all that Part was owing to the Direction of the King himself, and might have been done, and indeed would have been done, though the Ministry had been Ideots ; yet however, it was likewise very certain, that as when Things go ill, the Ministry have the Blame among the People, whether they merit an ill Word or no : so on the contrary, when Success answers Abroad or at Home, it redounds to the Honour and Advantage of the Ministry, though perhaps they had no Hand at all in the conducting of them.

So that upon the whole, says *Oracle*, your Grace does not think it a proper Time to fall upon the Ministry NOW ; I assure you, I am of a contrary Opinion.

A grave Person of Honour, whose Years added more to the Weight of what he said, than his Judgment, told the Meeting, he was of Opinion, they were in the Right to resolve to attack the Ministry as soon as they had a

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fair

fair Charge against them, but hoped for their own Sakes they would take Care not to begin till they were sure the Blow could not be warded off; and therefore moved that they should consider very well upon that Part before they began.

Another moved, that a Meeting should be appointed to draw Heads of Articles, it having been suggested that some in the Company were backward to offer particulars, but in a more private Manner, and that therefore a secret Committee should be appointed.

Quinquhan had hitherto silently listened to all the grave Speeches of the Assembly, and if he had said any Thing, it was only in whisper to such as sat next him, but had taken Notes of all that had been said; and finding every Man had given his Opinion, at least every one that intended it: He took up his Notes, and looking upon them, as if he was going to sum up the Cause, and to read something out of his Paper, he began with recapitulating the End and Design of that Meeting, which

which was, as he call'd it, to observe at what Gap they might break in upon the present Administration ; He told them, it was evident Force was not their Work, our rash Friends, says he, have done us Harm in that Part ; but thank Heaven we have no other Share in their Misfortunes ; and with that he smiled a little.

He told them, he found some had been in Hopes to keep up the Ferment of the People by Mobbs and Rabbles, but he thought that Way would never do ; because the Government would always fall upon the People with Force ; and though at first, the Gallows and the Lash would but exasperate, yet there being no Help at Hand, the People would cool and be discouraged : So that upon the whole, says he, *I do not see that the Ministry can be broken in upon that Way.* As for the Danger of the Church, he told them, he found they were all of the Opinion that it was a thread-bare Complaint, had been made use of as long as there was any tolerable

Room for it, and that being now worn out, it should sleep a while, and keep cold, and he added, that he was of the same Mind.

As to the other Measures, he said, he found all that they proposed might come to this: That they should set up what was formerly called the Country Party, against the Court; which indeed had formerly been practised with Success, but that Things were at present in such a Posture, by the Steadiness of the Prince, and the Vigilance of the Ministry, that he did not see Room for any Thing to be done that Way, and that therefore he could give them no Encouragement.

Nil desperandum, said ORACLE, wise Men never despair of any Thing. Adding, that though he was not so much in Hast to precipitate Things before their Time; yet he was not so flegmatick as his Grace was, who spoke last; the Church, he said, had a strong Party still, and always would have so; and as their Interest was already good, though something dispersed by

by the late Disorders, yet he did not doubt but in Time to retrieve Things, and so proposed three Particulars to them.

1. That seeing Things did not appear so easy and practicable now, as it was hoped they might do in a little longer Time, they should therefore defer their Proceeding to another Opportunity.
2. That nevertheless they should not fail to correspond with their Friends in all Parts, to cultivate their Interests, and increase their Party.
3. That in the mean Time, they should offer the present Ministry all the Affronts, Disturbances, and Uneasiness they could, so as not to bring themselves within the Reach of their Power.

They

They had several other petty Resolves; such as, that they would upon all Occasions encourage Rabblies, Tumults, Libels, &c. against the Government, but especially against the Ministers of State: That every Thing as might serve to keep up the Spirit of Discontent among the People, should be diligently watched for and propagated: That the Septennial Bill may be of as little Use as possible, and the Whigs may be as certain to lose their Aim at the next Election as they did before.

There were no Debates upon any of these Heads, but the first; some endeavoured to keep up their Spirits a while, but after some few Discourses, it was unanimously resolv'd in the Affirmative, (*viz.*) that as things now stood, there was nothing could be done, and that therefore it was proper to wait a fairer Opportunity; and so the Assembly broke up.

F I N I S.

